

# WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

May 6, 2014

## In Attendance:

Bruce Barnes, Traffic Engineer; Highway Commissioner Representative  
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative  
Michael Fagan; Citizen  
Sergeant Mark Garry; Village of Pewaukee Police Department Representative  
Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz; City of Muskego Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Lisa Panas; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator  
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative  
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative  
Carl Scheid; Citizen  
Sergeant Eric Schmidt; Town of Mukwonago Police Department Representative  
Deborah K. Turner; Citizen  
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department Representative

## CALL TO ORDER

Kathleen Roe, Education Representative, made a motion to call the meeting to order. Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, seconded the motion, and the meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Lisa Panas at 1:00 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were two amendments to the minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting as follows:

The amendments should be made on Page #3, under the section "High Crash Locations / Fatalities" – Sergeant Steve Rudie, of the Menomonee Falls Police Department. The first amendment is in the first sentence which currently reads: *"Two fatalities in two separate incidents occurred within minutes of each other, due to the snowy and ice road white-out conditions on I-94."* It should be changed to read as follows: *"Two fatalities in two separate incidents occurred within minutes of each other, due to the snowy and ice road white-out conditions on I-45."* The second amendment is in the second to last sentence which currently reads: *"The second fatal accident occurred just north of County Line Road on the freeway was written by State Patrol."* It should be changed to read as follows: *"The second fatal accident occurred just south of County Line Road on the freeway was written by State Patrol."*

Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes from 02-11-14. Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz, from the City of Muskego Police Department, seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The minutes were then approved.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Michael Fagan, Deborah Turner, and Carl Scheid, were in attendance at the meeting representing citizens in the Oconomowoc area and who were addressing safety concerns regarding the crossing of the Lake Country Recreation Trail at Highway 67 in Oconomowoc. At the point in question, the Lake Country Recreation Trail is controlled by the county's jurisdiction. They stated they had several concerns regarding the expansion, which includes a proposal for the addition of two more lanes of Highway 67, from I-94 into Oconomowoc. They are requesting a proposal for a multi-use overpass or underpass to be included in the construction design. They have spoken to the Department Of Transportation, and they wanted to be sure it is considered as a safety concern. The urgency now is their utmost concern because the highway is being redone, and it would be easier to incorporate an overpass or underpass while it is under construction, rather than to add one later.

The first concern is in regard to the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists who need to cross Highway 67 east-west or vice versa. The second concern is that the expansion will threaten to isolate the last two miles at the Oconomowoc end of the trail if there is not a multi-use overpass or underpass included in the design. The third concern is for a safe crossing at Highway 67 for students west of Highway 67 attending Summit Elementary and for students east of Highway 67 attending Silver Lake Intermediate. The fourth concern is that the businesses at Pabst Farms would benefit if the area was accessible by bikes and pedestrians; and, therefore, the expansion may not be necessary. The final concern is that by the time the citizens are allowed to voice their concerns, it is usually too late and plans are already too far along to have any changes made.

Bruce Barnes, Waukesha County Traffic Engineer, stated he would relay their concerns to the Waukesha County Parks Department. The committee stated they would ask the City of Oconomowoc for their motor vehicle and pedestrian crash data. Cost may be a factor, however, signaling could also be a consideration. Mitzi Dobersek, from the Wisconsin Highway Department Of Transportation, stated she would be more than happy to work with them, and that there are a lot of different things that can be done (signing options, LED lights, etc.) if the proposal for the overpass/underpass is not accepted. Mitzi Dobersek stated she will e-mail the citizens' concerns to the STH 67 project manager for the Department Of Transportation, and also to the Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Lieutenant Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, stated perhaps this would also be the time for them to ask for a reduction of speed by five or ten miles per hour in that area.

Another safety issue the citizens brought up was to ask for an approximate twenty yards of asphalt to be installed on the Lake Country Recreation Trail by the new Summit School. It was suggested the problem first be presented to WE Energies. Bruce Barnes stated he would also relay this concern to the Waukesha County Parks Department as well. Mitzi Dobersek stated the Department Of Transportation would be willing to do public outreach and education to the school reference a presentation to the children on how to use crosswalks.

**OLD BUSINESS**

From the Traffic Safety Commission meeting on 11-12-13, Captain Paul Repischak, from the City of New Berlin Police Department, stated a citizen reported that cars were confusing her driveway for National Avenue. Bruce Barnes stated he looked at the area, and the sign for CTH ES could be moved; however, he will get in contact with Captain Repischak to consult with him first before a work order is submitted.

### COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

#### ❖ Education

Kathleen Roe had received information reference citizens requesting additional police enforcement around the high schools, especially Waukesha West High School and Kettle Moraine High School. Lieutenant Panas stated the Sheriff's Department could do extra patrols, and she would notify the City of Waukesha.

#### ❖ Highway Commission

Bruce Barnes stated the Public Works Department has been scanning the state-wide database for collision history along the county highways in Waukesha County looking at locations where there have been fatalities or severe injuries which have required hospitalization to develop a formal listing of priorities based on that data. They have already begun utilizing the list and put in three projects for highway safety improvement funding from the list and have obtained funding for two. Design will begin later this year for both projects. The first improvement project is STH VV at CTH E to convert to a round-about intersection, and the second improvement project is on Silver Spring Road at Lilly Road in Menomonee Falls for realigning the left turn lanes and replacing the traffic signals.

Bruce Barnes also stated there are three county highway intersections currently under design for safety improvements. The first is at Racine and Lawnsdale that will become signalized, the second is at CTH JJ and CTH J at the airport, and the third is at Burleigh Road and Pilgrim Road.

Sergeant Mark Tushaus stated at the intersection of Brookfield Road and CTH M a roundabout is being constructed. The intersection will be passable until 06-16-14, and then closed for the whole summer.

Bruce Barnes stated the completion for CTH F is for the later part of July 2014.

Sergeant Eric Schmidt, of the Town of Mukwonago Police Department, asked about the curve on CTH I, one-half mile east of Ehr Drive. Bruce Barnes stated it is going to be looked into.

Kathleen Roe asked if the Highway 83 project between CTH E and Highway 18 was still on schedule. Mitzi Dobersek stated she would look into it.

### HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

- ➡ Sergeant Eric Schmidt, of the Town of Mukwonago Police Department, reported that the Town of Mukwonago Police Department, had one fatal accident, as follows.

#### ● Date of Accident: 03-23-14

Location: CTH I, 2/10 mile west of Point Drive

An male driver in his mid-60's had a seizure and his Mercury Grand Marquis went off the roadway, hit a fence, and hit a tree head-on. He incurred injuries in the accident. His 62-year-old wife, who was riding in the rear passenger seat, was extricated and taken to Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Two weeks later she passed away from injuries as a result of the accident.

**HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED**

- ➔ Chairman Lieutenant Lisa Panas reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had three fatalities, as follows:

- Date of Accident: 03-26-14, 0013 hours

Location: Merrill Hills Road, 700 feet south of Kame Terrace, Town of Waukesha

This fatality involved a single vehicle crash where a 2005 Mercury Montego traveling northbound on Merrill Hills Road crossed the southbound lane, swerving to the west side of the road, and impacted a large tree. The driver and sole occupant, a 37-year-old female, was pronounced deceased on the scene.

- Date of Accident: 04-21-14, 0803 hours

Location: CTH DE 773 feet west of Road DT, Town of Genesee

This fatality involved a single vehicle crash which was the apparent suicide of a 37-year-old female. A 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt was traveling east on CTH DE in a 45 mile per hour zone and crossed over the center line, went into a ditch, and made contact with a large tree. There was heavy front end damage and the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. There were no witnesses, however, several people came upon it within moments of the crash. One passerby could not see if anyone was inside the vehicle, due to the roof liner which was draped down inside the vehicle. Using an axe, he broke out the driver's side window in an attempt to check the interior and possibly remove any occupants; however, he was unable to see because of the smoke and was soon driven back by the flames and intense heat as the vehicle erupted in fire. The sole occupant of the vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene.

- Date of Accident: 04-23-14, 0725 hours

Location: CTH DE 966 feet west of Oak Court, Town of Genesee

This fatality was a double fatality crash. A 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt was westbound on Sunset Drive and lost control while negotiating a curve. It then left its lane of traffic and crossed into eastbound traffic sideways, striking a 2012 Toyota Venza. Both occupants of the Chevrolet Cobalt, a 23-year-old male and a 23-year-old female, were fatally injured. The occupant of the Toyota was injured and transported to the Aurora Medical Center. At this time it is unknown why the driver of the Chevrolet lost control of the vehicle.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, received a concern from a citizen reference the re-routing of State Highway 83 through the Village of Mukwonago. The concern was at Holtz Parkway at Highway 83 near the park and ride as you negotiate through the "S" turn. The concern was that it is unsafe to make a westbound left turn, and the citizen was asking if the road could be widened and straightened. Mitzi Dobersek stated she would check into it.

**NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED**

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 355 of the Waukesha County Courthouse.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz, from the City of Muskego Police Department. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich  
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

**(MINUTES APPROVED ON 08-19-14)**